

STANDARDS:

Farmers who receive funding will be expected to install the work either using NRCS standards and specifications or manufacturers' guidelines.

All responses which are favorably reviewed in the initial evaluation process will require a field visit prior to funding being awarded. A field visit does not assure funding for a response.

HOW TO APPLY:

- ❑ Print a copy from the DAR website www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aEEP/
- ❑ Call DAR and request a copy be sent to you. Telephone: 617-626-1773.

DEADLINES :

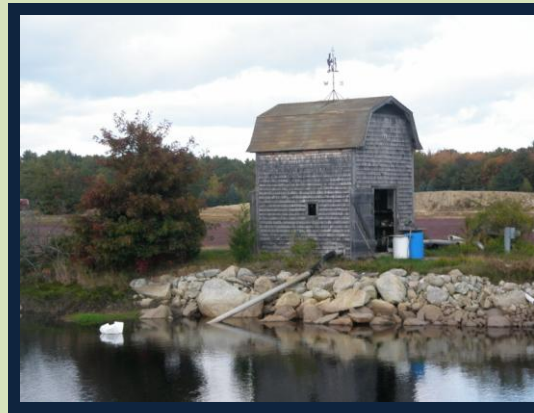
- ❑ Applications become available in April and are due at the end of June each calendar year.
- ❑ Program details are available online at www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aEEP/.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact:

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Applications that are sent by fax or electronically will NOT be accepted.

NOTE:

Funding is subject to appropriation and availability

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

General Information



Department of Agricultural Resources
Suite 500, 251 Causeway Street,
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626-1773
www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aEEP/

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) is to help Massachusetts agricultural operations address any potential impacts on natural resources. While primarily a water quality program, AEEP will also fund practices that promote energy efficiency, conserve water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

AEEP is a reimbursement program that funds the purchase of materials. Reimbursements of up to \$25,000 are awarded on a competitive basis. Successful responders must make a financial match of at least 5% of the costs of materials.

Examples of projects eligible for funding through AEEP include, **but are not limited to**, the following:

- ☐ Pesticide mixing/ storage facilities
- ☐ Fencing
- ☐ Manure storage facilities
- ☐ Heavy Use Areas
- ☐ Roofs for manure storage pads
- ☐ Water re-use projects
- ☐ Drip irrigation
- ☐ Wind breaks
- ☐ Energy audits
- ☐ Agriculturally generated biomass
- ☐ Wind power
- ☐ Solar energy
- ☐ Fuel storage containment
- ☐ Other projects which address impacts on the resource areas of concern

On many of these projects, AEEP partners closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS provides technical assistance in the form of conservation planning and engineering design.

ELIGIBILITY

Basic Requirements:

- ☐ Property must consist of at least 5 contiguous acres of land under the same ownership and be actively devoted to agricultural use, or
- ☐ Have at least three acres in bog production, or
- ☐ Have at least 5,000 square feet under greenhouse production



Conservation Plan:

- ☐ Water quality and water conservation responses must have proof of a written and updated NRCS Conservation Plan. (Greenhouse operators, flower growers and shellfish growers are excluded from this minimum requirement).
- ☐ Energy conservation and air quality responses may be excluded from this requirement.
- ☐ Eligible shellfish growers will possess a current shellfish aquaculture license.

Additional requirements can be found on the AEEP application on the DAR webpage:
www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aEEP

EVALUATION

Responses are evaluated by awarding points based upon criteria. The following criteria are some of those considered when evaluating applications:

- ☐ The presence or threat of direct discharges of pollutants into surface water bodies or wetlands.
- ☐ Agricultural operations located within a DEP resource protection area.
- ☐ Demonstration of increased efficiencies for water and energy conservation projects and air quality responses.
- ☐ Agricultural operations implementing energy audit recommendations.
- ☐ Responses addressing more than one resource area of concern.
- ☐ Agricultural operations with an agricultural restriction under APR.
- ☐ Agricultural operations currently participating in Farm Viability Enhancement Programs.
- ☐ New entry farmers who have been farming for less than 10 years.

